

NEWS RELEASE

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Former Champaign Man Pleads Guilty to Drug Charge

Urbana, IL: United States Attorney, Rodger A. Heaton, announced today that a former Champaign resident pleaded guilty to drug charges in federal court in Urbana. DANNY CHATMAN, age 24, formerly of 606 1/2 E. Stoughton, Champaign, now living in South Holland, Illinois, pleaded guilty to possessing more than 50 grams of crack cocaine with the intent to distribute it during a hearing before United States Magistrate Judge David G. Bernthal.

Court records show that in February and March, 2006, a confidential informant working with Champaign Police officers made four purchases of crack from Chatman. Based on those purchases, the officer obtained a search warrant for Chatman's residence on March 10, 2006 and searched it that day. During the execution of the warrant, the officers seized various amounts of marijuana and powder and crack cocaine. The crack had a gross weight of 189 grams and was packaged in 94 separate baggies, indicating that it was intended for distribution. In addition to the drugs, the officers also seized several digital scales, drug records, and more than \$21, 000 in cash. After he was arrested, Chatman admitted that he had 30 to 40 customers to whom he was selling various amounts of powder and crack cocaine.

Judge Bernthal scheduled sentencing for March 30, 2007. At that time, Chatman faces a minimum sentence of 10 years and up to life imprisonment.

The case resulted from an investigation conducted by the Champaign Police Department and was prosecuted by Richard N. Cox, Assistant United States Attorney.

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